

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124829

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMCITS: MEETING WITH TANAMB IN
WASHINGTON

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS CALLED IN TANZANIAN
AMBASSADOR BOMANI MAY 27 TO DISCUSS KIDNAPPING. HE MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS: A) WE RESPECT PRESIDENT NYERERE'S
DECISION TO REJECT THE DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS, BUT WE
BELIEVE THAT STATEMENT STRESSING GOT'S HUMANITARIAN CON-
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CERN FOR SAFETY OF STUDENTS WOULD BE HELPFUL. B) OUR

EXPERIENCE IN SITUATIONS OF THIS TYPE HAS SHOWN THAT IT IS USEFUL TO KEEP OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE KIDNAPPERS. NOT ONLY IS DIALOGUE LIKELY TO BE HELPFUL IN AVERTING TRAGEDY, BUT AS A DIALOGUE PROCEEDS AND TIME PASSES, BREAKS OFTEN APPEAR IN WHAT INITIALLY MIGHT HAVE SEEMED TO BE A COMPLETELY STALEMATED CONFRONTATION. C) OUR OWN NATIONAL POSITION, ROOTED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, IS TO LOOK TO HOST GOVERNMENT WHERE INCIDENT TAKES PLACE TO BEAR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFE RELEASE OF PERSONS INVOLVED. AS YOUNG PEOPLE ARE IN ZAIRE, GOZ OF COURSE SHARES THIS RESPONSIBILITY WITH GOT. WE HOPE GOT AND GOZ WILL BE AND WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH ON MATTER. D) WE WISH BE HELPFUL AND ASSIST GOT, AND HAVE GREATEST INTEREST IN HOW GOT VIEWS MATTER AND ANY SUGGESTIONS GOT MIGHT HAVE AS TO NEXT USEFUL STEPS.

2. BOMANI REPLIED THAT GOT HAD ALREADY STRESSED ITS CONCERN, AND NOTED THAT GOT WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO SEND RADIO MESSAGE AND IMPLEMENT SEARCH. BECAUSE STUDENTS BEING HELD IN ZAIRE, THERE ARE DISTINCT LIMITS TO GOT ACTIONS. HIS GOVT HAS INFORMED HIM THAT GOT DECISION NOT SUBMIT TO BLACKMAIL IS IRREVOCABLE. BOMANI SAID HE WAS SURE THAT GOT WAS IN TOUCH WITH GOZ, AND ADDED THAT BOTH GOVTS WERE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO LOCATE KIDNAPPER'S CAMP. HE HOPED THAT USG WAS BEING EQUALLY INSISTENT WITH ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS THAT GOZ FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. FINALLY, HE INQUIRED WHAT KIND OF STATEMENT WE THOUGHT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

3. DAVIS SUGGESTED STATEMENT ALONG LINES THAT GOT REMAINS CONCERNED RE SAFETY AND WELFARE THESE STUDENTS. SUCH STATEMENT, IF BROADCAST OVER RADIO TANZANIA, WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY GET TO KIDNAPPERS AND HOPEFULLY DETER THEM FROM ANY RASH ACTION. ANYTHING GOT COULD DO TO HELP DEVELOP DIALOGUE AND OBTAIN ASSURANCES THAT THREE REMAINING STUDENTS WERE STILL WELL WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL. IN AGAIN EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION WITH KIDNAPPERS, DAVIS USED EXAMPLE OF SANTO DOMINGO WHERE KIDNAPPERS WERE TALKED OUT OF ALL ORIGINAL DEMANDS; FACT THEY DISCOVERED THEY HAD NO POPULAR SUPPORT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT. HE RECOGNIZED DIFFICULTY BECAUSE TWO VALUES

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IN CONFLICT: 1) SAVE LIVES OF VICTIMS AND 2) NOT PRODUCE PRECEDENT WITH POLITICAL REVOLUTIONARIES TO USE LIVES INNOCENT PEOPLE AS WEAPONS IN POLITICAL WARFARE. NEVERTHELESS WE HOPED FOR GOT'S CONTINUING COOPERATION IN EFFECTING RELEASE OF STUDENTS.

4. BOMANI SAID HE WOULD PASS DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS TO HIS GOVERNMENT. INGERSOLL

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